**RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FATHER**

Sunday School Lesson 15

*Building Right Relationships*

Proverbs 17:6

6/18/2023

**Introduction:** With today being Father’s Day, it seems appropriate to circle back to consider some principles for having a right relationship with your father. Also, knowing that the Bible refers to the Lord as our Heavenly Father, this lesson should provide some relationship considerations for every believer and the Lord. In last week’s lesson, we finished looking at the leader/follower relationship. We observed seven principles to help us in that particular relationship. Before we move forward to today’s lesson, let’s recap those principles. 1.) A leader should teach his followers how to be good followers toward all of their leaders. 2.) A leader should not compete against other Godly leaders for the loyalty of a follower. A leader should be trying to build up God’s kingdom and not his own kingdom. 3.) A leader should be willing to hear from his followers. Every person is commanded to be swift to hear and slow to speak. 4.) A leader should be willing to share success with his followers and to accept responsibility for failures. An ungodly leader will shift blame to his followers and refuse personal accountability. 5.) A follower must accept that he may have limited knowledge or understanding compared to what the leader has. A follower may lack the vision to see as far down the road as the leader can see. 6.) A follower should see the honor of following Godly leadership. We should rejoice in Godly followers as much as we rejoice in Godly leaders. 7.) A follower should understand that the key to following is submission. Now, let’s consider what the Lord has for us in today’s lesson:

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT FATHERS ARE THE GLORY OF THEIR CHILDREN.**

* Proverbs 17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. Luke 11:48 Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your fathers: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchres. The Bible tells us that the glory of children are their fathers. I believe that children have been made by the Lord to instinctively glory in their father. There is great comfort, confidence, and companionship between a father and his child. You will often hear young children bragging about their dad, and they are usually very quick to defend criticism against him. Fathers ought to take this glory very seriously. We can also understand that children bear the glory of their fathers. Jesus will come in the glory of His Father. When the father’s glory is good, this is a wonderful thing for the child. Yet, what happens when the father is a fool? How many people have had to work hard to come out from under the shadows of a wicked father? How few kings of Israel were able to do so? The Lord reproved the men of Israel for following in the deeds of their fathers.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT THE ROLE OF THE FATHER IS GIVEN GREAT IMPORTANCE IN GOD’S WORD.**

* Psalm 68:5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. Psalm 146:9 The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down. James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. We live in a day where the traditional, God-designed family is under attack like never before. In our country, there are nearly eleven million single-parent homes, and roughly 80% of those homes are led by single mothers. It’s estimated that there are over eighteen million children being raised in a home without a biological, step, or adoptive father. The Bible speaks of children who are fatherless as those who are afflicted. They are often grouped together with the poor and widows. As Christians, we ought to understand just how important fathers are in the home. They are meant to provide the spiritual, financial, and emotional stability that is needed for their children. Every father ought to understand how important his role is in the home. Every wife ought to understand how needed the father is in the home. Every child ought to give thanks for a Godly father. Every Christian ought to give thanks for our Heavenly Father.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT A FOOLISH CHILD CAUSES SHAME, REPROACH, AND A LACK OF JOY FOR HIS FATHER. IT IS A PERSONAL FAILURE TO HIM.**

* Proverbs 28:7 Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father. Proverbs 19:26 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach. Proverbs 17:21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy. Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping. When we looked at a similar point on Mother’s Day, we observed that a mother carries a great heaviness when her children live foolishly. We see that there is similar despair for the father who has a foolish child. We also see that there is shame and reproach that is caused by a foolish child. Just as a father is the glory of a child, that child takes the name of the father out with him. When the child behaves poorly, it is a bad reflection on the father. Additionally, it causes a lack of joy for the father, as he must spend the majority of his time chastening the child. Finally, we see that the foolish child is counted as a personal failure for the father. There are examples of this in the Bible with men like Eli and Samuel. The Bible tells us that a foolish son is the calamity of his father. This shows us how much of a disaster it is to have a child who behaves himself foolishly.

1. **WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF A FATHER AND A SON. HE PROVIDES INSTRUCTION AND AN EXAMPLE TO PREPARE THE SON TO BE A FATHER.**

* Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke. Philippians 2:22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. (Judges 8:20-21) When we look at the book of Proverbs, we see a portion of the book coming from King David (through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God) to his son Solomon. David wanted to make sure that his son understood what he needed to do and be in order to be successful both as a husband/father and as a king. David gives his son at least six different urgent and extended warnings about the strange woman. Obviously, this was particular counsel that David could give his son both as a man and as someone who had unfortunately failed in that area. Paul took on a fatherly role when it came to his relationship with Timothy. He did not just seek to train him as a child in the ministry, but he viewed him in particular as a son in the ministry. He understood that Timothy was going to walk a similar path in church ministry, and he wanted to help prepare him on how to properly handle that role. We need fathers who will teach and lead their sons on how to be Christian men who love and serve the Lord faithfully. Sadly, as we look throughout the Bible, we see so many examples where fathers failed their sons.

1. **WE MUST UNDESTAND THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF A FATHER AND A DAUGHTER. HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE LOVE & PROVISION SHE’LL LOOK FOR IN A HUSBAND.**

* 2 Thessalonians 2:16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (Deuteronomy 7:3) The Bible does not give us much instruction when it comes to dealing specifically with the father/daughter relationship, but there are a few things that we can glean from Scripture. We see that a primary point of emphasis in the Bible is for fathers to properly ensure that their daughters are given to good marriages. How can we effectively do this today? We can do this by showing them an example of the love and provision that they should be able to expect from a husband. The Lord’s love for us is compared to both a father/child relationship and a husband/wife relationship. There is comfort and confidence in the father’s love for his child. Men, your daughters need to know that they are loved and taken care of, and they need to see this love in your relationship with your wife. Be sure to reaffirm their purpose and help them to see the beauty that they have in being a virtuous woman.